

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 229111  
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SIG-03 SES-02  
SAA-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 HA-05 ACDA-12 /100 R

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NEA:MDRAPER  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229111

LONDON FOR HELMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MARR, PBOR, LE, IS, SY, EG

SUBJECT: UN INTERIM FORCE IN THE LEBANON (UNIFIL): RENEWAL  
OF MANDATE

1. UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM CALLED IN FRENCH CHARGE BOYER ON  
SEPTEMBER 8 TO URGE THE GOF TO RECONSIDER WHAT WE UNDER-  
STOOD (FROM FRENCH PERMREP'S CONVERSATION WITH LEONARD IN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 229111

NEW YORK THIS MORNING) TO BE THEIR INTENTION TO GO FOR ONLY  
A THREE-MONTH RENEWAL (RATHER THAN SIX-MONTH) OF THE  
UNIFIL MANDATE WHICH EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 19.

2. MR. NEWSOM EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION  
FOR THE FRENCH ROLE IN UNIFIL. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS,  
HOWEVER, A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE USG AND OF

PERSONAL CONCERN TO THE SECRETARY, THAT THE EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE NOT BE LIMITED TO THREE MONTHS. THIS WOULD NOT (AS SOME IN THE GOF APPARENTLY FEEL) PUT PRESSURE ON THE PARTIES TO COOPERATE. IT WOULD RUN THE RISK OF BEING DESTABILIZING AND COULD BE A SIGNAL TO OTHERS THAT THE UN PRESENCE WOULD BE DEPARTING IMMINENTLY. THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO TAKE UP UNIFIL AGAIN IN DECEMBER -- TOO BRIEF A TIME HENCE.

3. THE FRENCH CHARGE WONDERED WHETHER THERE MIGHT NOT BE

IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION BEFORE RENEWAL. MR. NEWSOM SAID WE COULD SEE LITTLE HOPE. DRAPER (NEA) SAID THAT THE ONLY HOPE AT PRESENT WOULD BE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ISRAELI MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN'S ASSURANCES OF AUGUST 30 OF MORE OUTPOSTS AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR UNIFIL. BOYER SPECULATED THAT THIS MIGHT BE PRECLUDED BY THE LEBANESE DISMISSAL OF THE CHRISTIAN COLONELS IN THE SOUTH.

MR. NEWSOM OBSERVED THAT WE STILL HOPED THAT A LEBANESE PRESENCE COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN THE SOUTH, BUT THAT THE NINETEENTH WAS CLOSE UPON US; THAT THE UN FORCE WAS PLAYING A VITAL ROLE AND WITHOUT IT WE WOULD FACE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 229111

4. NEWSOM GAVE BOYER FOLLOWING "NON-PAPER" WHICH BOYER SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT TO PARIS:

BEGIN TEXT: THE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT FRANCE INTENDS TO CALL FOR AN EXTENSION OF ONLY THREE MONTHS IN THE MANDATE OF THE UN INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON. WHILE WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE SENSE OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE FULFILLMENT OF UNIFIL'S MANDATE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INTENDED FRENCH ACTION FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A SHORTER MANDATE FOR UNIFIL WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MOVING THE PARTIES TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. ON THE CONTRARY, THE UNCERTAINTY ENGENDERED BY A SHORTER MANDATE WOULD CAUSE LEBANON TO BE MORE RELUCTANT THAN TO BE LESS WILLING TO RESTRAIN THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. NEEDED FOR A SOLUTION IS THE PATIENT APPLICATION OF CONTINUOUS PRESSURE ON ALL SIDES TO SUPPORT THE MANDATE. IT WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY ELEMENTS INTERESTED IN AREA INSTABILITY AS REFLECTING A LACK OF RESOLVE ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND, FAR FROM ACQUIESCING OR COOPERATING, TO ADOPT A STRATEGY

OF INTRANSIGENCE WHILE OUTWAITING UNIFIL. THE NEED TO CONSIDER UNIFIL IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AFTER ONLY THREE MONTHS MORE WOULD CREATE CONFUSION AND DAMAGE THE CHANCES FOR CONTINUED STABILITY ON THE LEBANON-ISRAEL BORDER.

2. THIS ACTION COULD ALSO CAUSE OTHER TROOP-CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES TO QUESTION THE DESIRABILITY OF THEIR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL. OTHER COUNTRIES IN UNIFIL LOOK TO THE FRENCH FOR INDICATIONS OF THE VIABILITY OF THE OPERATION AND MAY VIEW THE INTENDED FRENCH ACTION AS A SIGN THAT UNIFIL WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS

MANDATE.  
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PAGE 04 STATE 229111

3. A THREE-MONTH MANDATE WOULD MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE UN IN TERMS OF PLANNING AND LOGISTICS. WE UNDERSTAND THE UN CANNOT COMMIT FUNDS BEYOND THE EXPIRATION OF THE UNIFIL MANDATE AND THIS WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE LETTING OF CONTRACTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF HOUSING AS WINTER APPROACHES.

4. IN ADDITION, A SHORTER UNIFIL MANDATE WOULD SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT IN TERMS OF OTHER UN PEACEKEEPING FORCES. IN THIS REGARD, THE MANDATE OF UNEF AND UNDOF ARE TO BE RENEWED IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IT TO BE IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE REGION THAT THE MANDATES OF THESE PEACEKEEPING FORCES BE RENEWED SMOOTHLY AND FOR THEIR FULL TERM. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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